

Jammu

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Schools, colleges in Kashmir to remain closed till March 7. The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday announced that all educational institutions in the region will remain closed until March 7, 2026, as a precautionary measure.



@DeccanChronicle

CM Omar Abdullah said that the future of Iran must be determined solely by its own people, stressing that no international law authorises any external power to bomb a sovereign nation or forcibly change its government.



QUEENSLAND:

On this day in 1899, Cyclone Mahina hit the north of Cooktown, Queensland with a 12m wave that resulted in the death of more than 300 people.



CASES:

12500 legal cases involving government departments in Jammu and Kashmir are pending across various courts in the Union Territory.



GIVE WAY:

This sign is used at roundabouts where a specific lane discipline is to be followed. This sign direct the traffic to give way to the fellow traffic on your right side.



In History

In Numbers

Traffic Signs

ADG CRPF calls on LG



JAMMU: Rajesh Kumar, Additional Director General (ADG) CRPF J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Tuesday.

Rana reviews PHE & I&FC schemes in Kashmir; calls for timely, quality execution

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday reviewed the progress of ongoing Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) schemes being executed across Kashmir division.

The meeting, which was convened virtually, focused on a comprehensive assessment of the physical and financial progress of key drinking water supply and irrigation projects currently under execution.

The Minister underscored the importance of adhering to the set timelines and maintaining complete transparency and accountability in project implementation. He directed the officers to ensure strict compliance with the prescribed quality standards at every stage, from planning to execution, so that durable and sustainable infrastructure is

created for the public. Expressing concern over reports of water supply disruptions in certain areas, the Minister instructed the officials to immediately address the grievances related to potable water availability. He emphasized the need for prompt complaint redressal, strengthening of distribution networks and close monitoring of supply systems to guarantee uninterrupted access to safe drinking water for all the households.

With the upcoming cropping season approaching, the Minister called for proactive measures to ensure that irrigation infrastructure is fully operational.

He directed the officers to expedite desiltation of canals, repair and replacement of worn-out plant and machinery besides removal of bottlenecks that could hamper water flow.

Dy CM calls for skilling J&K youth for local, national, international job markets

Stresses introduction of innovative, job-oriented trades

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Tuesday called for a comprehensive study and exploration of emerging job opportunities at the local, national and international level to enhance employment prospects for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks while chairing a high-level review meeting of the Skill Development Department (SDD) held at PWD Guest House, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, SDD, Rajiv Ranjan; Director, SDD, Owais Ahmad; MD, Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha; Principals, Superintendents of Polytechnics and ITIs, besides other senior officers while officers from the Kashmir region participated virtually.

Taking a comprehensive review of the department's functioning, the Deputy

Chief Minister directed the officers to conduct area-wise assessments of job markets and undertake detailed studies of employment trends at the national and international levels.

He emphasized introducing latest, innovative and job-oriented trades across ITIs and Polytechnics to meet the local industry needs and tap employment avenues in European and Middle Eastern markets. He also called for roping in reputed job consultancies and strengthening placement cells to facilitate employment-driven training programmes.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked all the Principals to proactively share ideas for launching demand-based courses aligned with the industry requirements to effectively address unemployment.

Stressing the need to bring greater vibrancy and

J&K has potential to be key player in India's 'Viksit Bharat' story: Jitendra

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh Tuesday said that Jammu & Kashmir has the potential to be a key player in India's "Viksit Bharat" story and closely partner with the Central government in the writing of India growth story.

Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing the "National Governance Conference" on the theme "Holistic Development of Districts" here today in the presence of Chief Minister of Jammu Kashmir, Sh. Omar Abdullah, Chief Secretary J&K, Atal Dulloo, Secretary Personnel Govt of India Rachna Shah and other senior officers from the Central and the UT governments.

The Union Minister said that the Centre is taking governance to remote areas to ensure inclusivity and wider participation, moving beyond traditional methods. He said this is part of a conscious effort to transform governance



practices in line with the requirements of contemporary India.

Tracing the reform journey since Independence, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that while India adopted a democratic framework early on, a renewed and focused momentum in governance reforms gained impetus in recent years under the leadership of PM Modi.

He emphasized the guiding principle of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance," underscoring maximum use of technology and minimal human interface to enhance transparency and efficiency.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that nearly 90 percent of the Government of India's work processes are now online, describing it as the "magic of technology" being put to optimum use. Initiatives such as the Aspirational Districts Programme were cited as unique examples of competitive and cooperative federalism, encouraging districts to adopt best practices and strive for excellence, he said adding that high-performing districts are felicitated by the Prime Minister, fostering a culture of performance-based governance. Dr. Jitendra

Singh highlighted major reforms undertaken in the past decade, including the removal of nearly 2,000 outdated rules, many of which had significant socio-economic implications. He spoke about pension reforms that brought greater inclusivity and flexibility, trust-based governance measures such as ending the practice of attestation by gazetted officers, and abolishing interviews for certain categories of recruitment to promote transparency and meritocracy.

On grievance redressal, the Union Minister

lauded the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), noting that around 90 percent of grievances are addressed within a week.

He also cited global success stories such as the Digital Life Certificate enabled through face recognition technology and the widespread adoption of the Unified Payments Interface, which has revolutionized digital payments.

Referring to the capacity-building initiative Mission Karmayogi, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the shift is from "rule-based" to "role-based" governance. He also highlighted the annual Swachhata Campaign launched in 2021, which has led to the disposal of electronic scrap worth approximately ₹4,200 crore and the freeing up of nearly 930 lakh square feet of space in government offices.

The Minister further underlined the success of the SVAMITVA Scheme, which was launched in Jammu and has empowered rural landowners by providing legal ownership records. He also detailed

key governance reforms in Jammu & Kashmir over the past 11 years, including the introduction of online RTI, establishment of a Central Administrative Tribunal bench, a Civil Services Examination Centre in Leh, integration of CPGRAMS, and specialized training programs for JKAS officers.

As for J&K Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Department of Administrative Reforms DARPG in Union Ministry of Personnel had helped J&K government develop e-office, thereby saving crores of rupees incurred in transport of all the office files to and fro between Jammu and Srinagar during each Durbars move.

In the months and years to come, with respect to J&K, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, a tripartite MoU finalised among the Govt of J&K, Centre's Capacity Building Commission and SPV of "Mission Karmayogi" has been finalise to take over 3.6 lakh J&K Govt employees on the iGOT platform form for continuous real-time capacity building for the assignment that they take up.

Omar meets delegations, individuals at Raabita Jammu; developmental and other issues raised

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Several delegations and individuals Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Public Outreach Office Raabita in Jammu, and apprised him of a range of public, developmental and sector-specific issues. Former Minister Raman Bhalla, accompanied by a delegation of civil society met the Chief Minister and highlighted various concerns pertaining to their welfare. The delegation sought sustained policy attention to address pending issues and ensure equitable development.

Former Minister Jagjwan Lal also called on the Chief Minister and discussed matters of public importance concerning his area as well as the broader region.

A delegation led by Dr. Parveen Akhter Lone, Principal, IG Government Dental College, Jammu, briefed the Chief Minister about the

significance of the upcoming national-level academic event and its importance for advancing dental education and research in the region.

A delegation headed by Dr. M. A. Alim, Chairman, CII J&K, met the Chief Minister and discussed the role of industry in economic revival, investment promotion and employment generation, while seeking continued government support for strengthening the industrial ecosystem.

Former Cabinet Minister Jugal Kishore Sharma, along with a delegation from Katra apprised the Chief Minister of matters of public importance relating to their area.

A delegation of sportspeople, along with others selected under SO-12 (Outstanding Sportspeople), met the Chief Minister to express their gratitude. They thanked the government for recognising their achievements and facilitating opportuni-



ties in public service. The Chief Minister congratulated them on their accomplishments and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in their respective fields.

President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu, Arun Gupta, accompanied by members, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues concerning trade, industry and routine business matters. The delegation sought measures to ease procedural bottlenecks and further

strengthen the commercial ecosystem in Jammu.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputations and individuals and assured that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority.

He reiterated that his government remains accessible and responsive to public representatives, professional bodies, industry leaders and citizens, and that constructive dialogue will continue to guide policy decisions in the larger interest of Jammu and Kashmir.

Holi symbolizes triumph of truth and devotion: BJP President Sat

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party Jammu district, under the leadership of its President Advocate Rajesh Gupta, organized a Holi Milan program at the party office, Kachi Chawni, Jammu, celebrating the festival of colours in a spirit of harmony, unity, and cultural pride.

The programme was graced by Sat Sharma, President, BJP J&K and Member of Rajya Sabha, along with General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, Secretaries Reema Padha and Arun Sharma, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Spokespersons Rajni Sethi, Balbir Ram Rattan, and Zorawar Singh, besides Ayodhya Gupta, Venu Khanna, Sanjay Baru, Jeet Angral, Ravant, Suneet Raina, Ramesh Gupta, Anil Masoom, Asha Gupta, Vijay Anand Gill, Adarsh Jathir, Dinesh Gupta, Swati Sharma and other senior leaders and party activists. The leaders celebrated the pious occasion by playing Holi with flower petals and distributing sweets.

Addressing on the occa-

sion, Sat Sharma extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and emphasized that Holi is not merely a festival of colours but a celebration of eternal love, and righteousness. He said that it is important to celebrate festivals in a manner that preserves the environment and safeguards public health. By using natural and organic colours and celebrating with flowers, we must respect health of all and the traditional values. Such celebrations strengthen social bonds and inspire positivity in society, he stated.

Highlighting the historic and spiritual importance of Holi, Sat Sharma said that the festival commemorates the triumph of truth and devotion over evil, symbolized by the story of devotee Prahlad and the burning of Holika. He said that Holi also marks the arrival of spring and is associated with divine love and devotion in the tradition of God Krishna, reflecting joy, renewal, and righteousness.

Full steam ahead for Holi; Jammu Div's strategic push for safe, smooth travels

JAMMU: In view of the expected heavy rush and safety of passengers during the Holi festival, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway remained on full alert.

Under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager, Vivek Kumar, and the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal, various strategic measures were taken to ensure better passenger comfort, safety, stress-free travel, and basic amenities for passengers during Holi. In accordance with this, senior officials periodically inspected various railway stations in the Jammu Division and, based on a "zero-inconvenience" policy, special attention was paid to passengers.

Revisiting the arrangements made for passengers, capacity expansion is the first step. To meet the additional passenger demand, special trains are being operated from Jammu and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Delhi, Varanasi, and other major cities. Special trains are being run between New Delhi and



Varanasi, both of which are operating successfully with 100% occupancy. Additional coaches were also added to the Rajdhani Express from time to time.

A high-tech control room (War Room) was established for crowd management within the division. Divisional officials personally supervised this 24x7 monitoring system.

Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police, and Commercial Department personnel were deployed at the entrances of all important railway stations within the division to ensure smooth passenger movement.

Intensive coordination was established between the Railway Protection

Force (RPF), GRP, and ticket checking staff to ensure passenger safety.

To facilitate passengers during this period, passengers were encouraged to utilize the Railvan app effectively. Since passengers arriving from other states often had their mobile phones switched off, Wi-Fi was provided at important railway stations. So that those arriving from other states can use the 'Railvan App' and 'Rail Madad' through their mobile phones.

Senior officials monitored the availability of food, clean water, and medical assistance at all important railway stations. Help desks were set up at stations for better guidance of passengers.



accountability in the department, he said that performance would determine postings and career progression, not recommendations. "You are nation builders. Work with dedication and ensure our youth are skilled and employable," he asserted.

While reviewing the functioning of Polytechnics and ITIs, he directed for

seamless operations and saturation of enrolment across all trades.

He emphasized inclusive skilling, instructing the officers to "ensure that underprivileged, destitute and orphaned youth are identified and enrolled in various courses and trades being offered by skill institutions."

The Deputy Chief Minister further stressed for

strengthening infrastructure across all districts and fast-tracking recruitment and promotions to address staff shortages within the department.

Earlier, Secretary SDD briefed the Deputy Chief Minister on the proposed Mission Skill Plan aimed at strengthening knowledge and training from the school level.